

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Report

New

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CHAPTER 2.4.2.

INFECTION WITH RANAVIRUS

Article 2.4.2.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with ranavirus means infection with any members of the genus *Ranavirus* in the family Iridoviridae with the exception of epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus and European catfish virus.

Methods for conducting surveillance and diagnosis of infection with ranavirus are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 2.4.2.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: all species of Anura (frogs and toads) and Caudata (salamanders and newts). The recommendations also apply to any other *susceptible species* referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

Article 2.4.2.3.

Commodities

1. When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, the *Competent Authorities* should not require any ranavirus related conditions, regardless of the ranavirus status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - a) For the species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. intended for any purpose:
 - i) *commodities* treated in a manner that kills the *disease agent* e.g. canned products; leather made from amphibian skin;
 - iii) biological samples preserved for diagnostic applications in such a manner as to inactivate the *disease agent*.
 - b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. which have been prepared and packaged for direct retail trade:
 - i) skinned frog legs;

- ii) skinned amphibian carcasses or meat.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1b), Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3., the *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 2.4.2.7. to 2.4.2.12. relevant to the ranavirus status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation/transit from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of ranavirus of any live *commodity* of a species not covered in Article 2.4.2.2. but which could reasonably be expected to be a potential ranavirus vector, the *Competent Authorities* should conduct a *risk analysis* in accordance with the recommendations in the *Aquatic Code*. The *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 2.4.2.4.

Ranavirus free country

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus if all the areas covered by the *zone* are declared ranavirus free (see Article 2.4.2.5.).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 15 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 25 years, or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in

Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, under development), may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus when:

- a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
- b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ranavirus.

OR

- 4. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from ranavirus again when the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ranavirus; and
 - d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a *free zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 2.4.2.5.

Article 2.4.2.5.

Ranavirus free zone or free compartment

A *zone* or *compartment* within the *territory* of one or more countries not declared free from ranavirus may be declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a ranavirus free *zone* or *compartment* if all the *Competent Authorities* confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A *zone* or *compartment* where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. is present may be declared free from ranavirus when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A *zone* or *compartment* where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 25 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), may be declared free from ranavirus when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 25 years, or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, under development), may be declared free from ranavirus when:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ranavirus.

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from ranavirus but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may be declared free from ranavirus again when the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
 - b) *infected* populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
 - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ranavirus; and
 - d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

Article 2.4.2.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from ranavirus following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 2.4.2.4. or 2.4.2.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as ranavirus free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from ranavirus following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 2.4.2.4. or 2.4.2.5. (as relevant) may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as ranavirus free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of ranavirus, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), exist, and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of ranavirus, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of *infection*.

Article 2.4.2.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus

When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from ranavirus, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.4.2.4. or 2.4.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the *commodity* is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from ranavirus.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 4.X.X.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3.

Article 2.4.2.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for farming from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

1. When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from ranavirus, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should:

- a) require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that no other live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

- b) assess the *risk* and apply risk mitigation measures such as:
 - i) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;
 - ii) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that kills ranavirus.
2. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* the following steps should be taken if the importation is for the establishment of a new stock:
- a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
 - b) evaluate stock's health/disease history;
 - c) take and test samples for ranavirus, pests and general health/disease status;
 - d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
 - e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in *quarantine*;
 - f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for ranavirus and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
 - g) if ranavirus is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the *basic biosecurity conditions* of the *importing country, zone or compartment*, the F-1 stock may be defined as ranavirus free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for ranavirus;
 - h) release SPF F-1 stock from *quarantine* for *aquaculture* or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3.

Article 2.4.2.9.

Importation of live aquatic animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

When importing, for processing for human consumption, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from ranavirus, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities for slaughter and processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*, and all effluent and waste materials be treated in a manner that kills ranavirus.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3.

Article 2.4.2.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, laboratory, zoo, pet trade, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from ranavirus, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should:

1. require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that no other live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

2. assess the *risk* and apply risk mitigation measures such as:
 - a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;
 - b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that kills ranavirus.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3.

Article 2.4.2.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from ranavirus, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.4.2.4. or 2.4.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from ranavirus.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 4.X.X.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3.

Article 2.4.2.12.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

1. When importing *aquatic animal* products of species referred to in Article 2.4.2.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from ranavirus, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
2. In the case of dead *aquatic animals*, whether *eviscerated* or uneviscerated, such risk mitigation measures may include:
 - a) the direct delivery into and holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*;
 - b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that kills ranavirus.
3. This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.2.3.